

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 DOE-15
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AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
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JUSE-00 NSF-02 OES-09 OMB-01 /176 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1857

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CITIZEN ARTICLE CLAIMS WALVIS BAY CONTROLS
AFRICA'S WEST COAST

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY AIDA PARKER APPEARED IN THE CITZEN,
TUESDAY, JULY 25:

BEGIN TEXT:

WALVIS BAY-- THE SOFT UNDERBELLY

WHEN IN 1920, THE OLD LEAGUE OF NATIONS DECLARED SOUTH

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WEST AFRICA A MANDATED TERRITORY TO BE ADMINISTERED BY
SOUTH AFRICA, THE WORLD BODY USED TWO EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
WORDS IN THE RELEVANT AUTHORIZING DOCUMENTS.

IT STIPULATED THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD ACCEPT AS A
"SACRED TRUST" THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TERRITORY AND ALL
ITS PEOPLE AND, FURTHERMORE, WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DO
EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO "ADVANCE THE WELL"BEING" OF

THOSE PEOPLE.

IT IS THOSE TWO WORDS -- "SACRED TRUST" --WHICH THE BIG FIVE WESTERN POWERS SHOULD CONSIDER VERY CAREFULLY DURING THIS WEEK'S UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON INDEPENDENCE FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA-NAMIBIA AND, EVEN MORE PARTICULARLY, THE CONTROVERSIAL SECOND RESOLUTION DEMANDING THE ALMOST-IMMEDIATE "RE-INTEGRATION" OF WALVIS BAY INTO THE TERRITORY.

THE WESTERN FIVE HAVE AGREED TO SUPPORT THE SWAPO-INITIATED SECOND RESOLUTION BECAUSE:

--THEY HAVE, THROUGHOUT THEIR NEGOTIATIONS, CONSISTENTLY OVERRATED THE POLITICAL POWER OF THE SERIOUSLY SPLINTERED, MOSCOW-ORIENTATED NUJOMA GROUP;

--THEY WILL DO ANTHING AND EVERYTHING IN THEIR EFFORTS TO APPEASE AND PLACATE BLACK AFRICA.

LAST CARD

BUT THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH SOUTH AFRICA COULD CLAIM TO HAVE FULFILLED THAT "SACRED THRUST" OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA IF SHE NOW MEEKLY SURRENDERS WALVIS BAY -- HER LAST REAL BARGAINING CARD IN THE TERRITORY -- AND SO GREATLY ENHANCE THE POSSIBILITY OF A SWAPO TAKEOVER.

WHAT THE WEST IGNORES IN THE PRESENT SITUATION IS THAT SINCE KOLWEZI, THE STABILITY OF ALL SUB-EQUATORIAL AFRICA IS BALANCED ON A HAIRSPRING.

ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE ARE BOTH DISASTER AREAS, POLITICALLY, SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA
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ARE RAPIDLY GOING THE SAME WAY. A HUGE QUESTION MARK HANGS OVER THE UNFORTUNATE RHODESIANS.

SHOULD ANY FURTHER INSTABILITY BE CREATED, THEN THE SECENE IS SET FOR TOTAL CATASTROPHE.

LET'S NOW LOOK AT WALVIS BAY.

AS THINGS STAND NOW, AND WITH ALL THE BIG POWER INTERFERENCE TAKING PLACE, THE CHANCES ARE MORE THAN GOOD THAT INDEPENDENCE FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA-NAMIBIA COULD BREED AN EXCEPTIONALLY UGLY MARXIST DUCKLING.

IF NUJOMA, THAT SELF-DECLARED MARXIST MARIONETTE, GAINS CONTROL OF WALVIS BAY, THEN QUITE OBVIOUSLY THE HARBOUR AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS WOULD MAKE THIS A SPLENDID STAGING POST FOR ANY ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY ACTION.

IN FACT, THE FAMOUS LESS REPORT, PRODUCED AT THE REQUEST OF THE CARNEGIE PEACE FOUNDATION IN 1968 AND LAYING DOWN A FULL-SCALE BLUEPRINT FOR AN INVASION OF SOUTH AFRICA, VISUALIZED WALVIS AS PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN SUCH AN ONSLAUGHT.

THIS WAS TO BE EXPECTED. WALVIS IS SOUTH WEST AFRICA'S ONLY REAL HARBOUR AND STRATEGICALLY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT HARBOUR ON THE WEST COAST SOUTH OF LOBITO IN ANGOLA.

ANYONE WHO CONTROLS WALVIS VIRTUALLY CONTROLS THE WEST COAST.

APART FROM THIS, SOUTH AFRICAN CONTROL OF WALVIS
WOULD CONSTITUTE A POWERFUL BARGAINING FACTOR SHOULD
ANY FUTURE REGIME IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA CONSIDER MILITARY
ACTION AGAINST THE REPUBLIC, OR START BUILDING UP TERRORIST
FORCES FOR USE IN STRIKES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.

SAA AT PRESENT USES WINDHOEK AS ITS MOST ADVANCED
AIRPORT ON OVERSEAS FLIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST. SHOULD
WINDHOEK BE CLOSED, THEN WALVIS BAY MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE
OVER.

MANY ALREADY ARGUE THAT THIS WOULD BE PREFERABLE,
BECAUSE WALVIS IS AT SEA LEVEL AND THE BIG JETS COULD TAKE OFF
WITH HEAVIER LOADS.

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THE FACILITIES FOR SUCH AN OPERATION ARE ALREADY THERE. THE SAAF HAS A LARGE MILITARY AIRFIELD A FEW KILOMETRES OUTSIDE WALVIS BAY WHICH COULD BE USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

THE HARBOUR ITSELF, OF COURSE, IS A MOST EMPTING PRIZE.

VERY WELL SITUATED, WITH FIRST-RATE WHARFAGE AND BACK-UP FACILITIES, IT HANDLES AROUND TWO-MILLION TONS OF CARGO A YEAR, WITH URANIUM FROM RIO TINTO ZINC'S GREAT ROSSING MINE NEAR SWAKOPMUND (THE BIGGEST MINE OF ITS TYPE IN THE WORLD)
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ASSUMING EVER-GREATER IMPORTANCE.

THE PORT'S FISHING, CANNING AND FISHMEAL INDUSTRY -- ONE OF THE RICHEST IN THE WORLD -- REPRESENTS A R25-MILLION INVESTMENT, AS WELL AS EMPLOYMENT FOR SOME 13,000 BLACKS AND SEVERAL THOUSAND COLOURED.

NATURALLY MOSCOW WOULD LIKE, THROUGH A SURROGATE BLACK DICTATORSHIP, TO HAVE CONTROL OF THESE ASSETS.

THE TRAWLER FLEETS OF RUSSIA, CUBA, POLAND, BULGARIA AND EAST GERMANY ALL ARE STRONGLY REPRESENTED IN THE FISHING FIELDS OFF SOUTH WEST AFRICA. NOTHING WOULD PLEASE THEM MORE THAN TO BE ABLE TO FREEZE EUROPEAN, JAPANESE AND SOUTH AFRICAN FLEETS OUT OF THESE WATERS.

THERE IS EXCELLENT REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT SAM NUJOMA HAS ALREADY DONE SOME SORT OF DEAL WITH MOSCOW ON CONTROL AND EXPLOITATION OF THE TERRITORY'S RICH MINERAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY URANIUM.
SAFE HANDS

ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO NUJOMA WAS INVITED TO VISIT RTZ'S LONDON OFFICES TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF ROSSING IN THE EVENT OF A SWAPO TAKEOVER.

RTZ WANTED TO ENSURE THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE TERRITORY'S POLITICAL FUTURE, THEIR MINE WOULD REMAIN IN SAFE HANDS AND CONTINUE SUPPLYING THE MATERIALS NEEDED FOR BRITAIN'S VAST NUCLEAR-POWER PROGRAMME.

ALTHOUGH NO DISCLOSURE WAS EVER MADE OF THE RESULTS OF THESE TALKS, IT APPEARS THAT NUJOMA COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCES BECAUSE HE HAD ALREADY BEEN TIED UP BY THE RUSSIONS.

IN ANY EVENT, NUJOMA HAS ALSO PLEDGED HIMSELF TO A WIDESPREAD NATIONALIZATION OF ALL FOREIGN INTERESTS SHOULD HE SUCCEED IN GRABBING POWER.

IN THE FACE OF ALL THIS, IT SEEMS ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF

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THAT THE BIG FIVE WOULD WILLINGLY CONNIVE AT A SITUATION WHERE WALVIS BAY IS APPARENTLY TO BE GIVEN TO SWAPO, ALMOST ON A PLATE.

THE WESTERN MOVE IS PARTICULARLY BAFFLING BECAUSE, PRIVATELY, SENIOR SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY AGREE TO SURRENDER WALVIS BAY TO NAMIBIA ONCE THEY WERE ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NEW COUNTRY WAS PEACEFUL IN ITS INTENTIONS TOWARDS THE REPUBLIC.

SWAPO'S DEMAND THAT WALVIS BE "RE-INTEGRATED" INTO SOUTH WEST AFRICA IS CLEARLY DEVOID OF ANY VALID POLITICAL OR LEGAL SUBSTANCE IN TERMS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW.

IT WAS FORMALLY ANNEXED BY BRITAIN IN MARCH, 1878, INCORPORATED INTO THE CAPE COLONY IN 1884 AND CONSOLIDATED INTO THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA IN 1910.

IT WAS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS MANDATE AND FROM SOUTH WEST AFRICA AS AN INTERNATIONAL TERRITORY.

SWAPO PROTESTS THAT "NAMIBIANS CANNOT BE BOUND BY COLONIAL TREATIES FROM THE 1880' IN WHICH THEY HAD NO PART."

IF THAT ARGUMENT IS TAKEN AT FACE VALUE THEN THE WHOLE MAP OF AFRICA (A CARTOPGRAPHER'S NIGHTMARE) WOULD HAVE TO BE REDRAWN. END TEXT.
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